

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-3 and 5-13 are pending. Claims 1 and 7 are independent. Claim 1 is hereby amended. No new matter has been added by these amendments. Claim 4 had been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification, specifically at pages 14-16. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

Applicants respectfully traverse the claim objections. In the amendment of July 26, 2006, the Applicants amended claim 5 to properly depend on claim 1. Accordingly, withdrawal and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-3 and 5-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 2001/0018332 to Lustila et al. (hereinafter, merely "Lustila") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,201,867 to Koike (hereinafter, merely "Koike").

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

“A portable terminal apparatus comprising

...a surface lighting portion provided on the outer surface of said housing and including a light source and a light guiding plate for guiding light emitted from said light source and scattering said light from one surface,

wherein the light guiding plate, which is a flat plate like member having substantially the same shape as that of the surface lighting portion, is disposed on a sheet like reflecting member to reflect upwardly the vertically downward light scattered from the light guiding plate;

a panel member detachably mounted on said housing so as to cover said surface lighting portion, at least a part of said panel member being transparent or semitransparent...” (emphasis added)

As understood by Applicants, Lustila relates to illuminating the outer cover of a handset which may be for a communication terminal such as a mobile telephone.

As understood by Applicants, Koike relates to a portable telephone comprising a portable telephone body and body cover for covering the portable telephone body, whereby the portable telephone can be used corresponding to scenes where ht portable telephone is used.

Applicants submit that Lustila and Koike, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the features of claim 1. Specifically, Applicant submits that there is no teaching or suggestion of a portable terminal apparatus wherein the light guiding plate, which is a flat plate like member having substantially the same shape as that of the surface lighting portion, is disposed on a sheet like reflecting member to reflect upwardly the vertically downward light scattered from the light guiding plate, as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, Applicant submits that independent claim 1 is patentable.

Claim 7 recites, *inter alia*:

“A portable terminal apparatus having a communication function, comprising:

...a hinge portion for pivotably connecting said upper housing and said lower housing so that said upper housing is foldable with respect to said lower housing;

a hinge lighting portion provided at said hinge portion for illumination in the condition where said upper housing is folded with respect to said lower housing;

a surface lighting portion provided on the outer surface of said upper housing; and

control means for controlling lighting patterns of said hinge lighting portion and said surface lighting portion independently and selectively.” (emphasis added)

It is respectfully submitted that the applied combination of Lustila and Koike does not provide the disclosure of claim 7. Page 6 of the Office Action states, “Lustila does not teach a lower housing and a hinge portion for pivotably connecting the upper housing and the lower housing so that the upper housing is foldable with respect to the lower housing.” Applicants respectfully disagree that Koike provides the disclosure missing from Lustila.

The Office Action cites column 2, lines 49-60 of Koike which recites, “[t]he portable telephone 1 according to the present embodiment has a portable telephone body 2 entirely covered with a body cover 3. The body cover 3 is formed of, e.g., a transparent plastic material, such as acrylic resin or others and is constituted by an upper body cover 4 for covering an upper portion of the portable telephone body 2, and a lower body cover 5 for covering a lower portion of the portable telephone body 2. The upper body cover 4 and the lower body cover 5 are integrated with each other by engaging snap members 7 projected from a margin 6 (peripheral edge portion) of the lower body cover 5 with recesses 9 provided in a margin 8 of the upper body cover 4.”

Applicants submit that Lustila and Koike, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the features of claim 7. Specifically, Applicant submits that there is no teaching

or suggestion of a portable terminal apparatus having a communication function, comprising a hinge portion for pivotably connecting said upper housing and said lower housing so that said upper housing is foldable with respect to said lower housing; a hinge lighting portion provided at said hinge portion for illumination in the condition where said upper housing is folded with respect to said lower housing, as recited in claim 7.

Indeed, Applicants submit that a lower body cover 5 for covering a lower portion of the portable telephone body 2, in which the upper body cover 4 and the lower body cover 5 are integrated with each other by engaging snap members 7 projected from a margin 6 (peripheral edge portion) of the lower body cover 5 with recesses 9 provided in a margin 8 of the upper body cover as disclosed in Koike is completely different than a hinge portion for pivotably connecting said upper housing and said lower housing so that said upper housing is foldable with respect to said lower housing; a hinge lighting portion provided at said hinge portion for illumination in the condition where said upper housing is folded with respect to said lower housing.

Therefore, Applicant submits that independent claim 7 is patentable.

III. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims are dependent from one of the claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In the event that the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing comments concerning the disclosures in the cited prior art, it is requested that the Examiner indicate where in the reference, there is the basis for a contrary view.

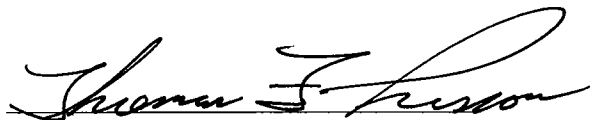
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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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